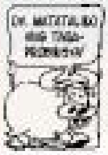
Even Jinggoy 'blind' on electronic elections



By Christian V. Esguerra

BACOLOD CITY—If the No. 2 man in the Philippine Senate who is running for reelection in May is blind about how automation

EVEN / A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, March 3, 2010 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 85 P18

2 power plants back on line; brownouts over

By Amy R. Remo, Yolanda Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Christine O. Avendaño

THE REPAIR OF POWER PLANTS THAT broke down a few days ago and electricity from the Visayas grid have spared Luzon, including Metro Manila, from further rotating brownouts.

National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) said Sual Unit 1 in Pangasinan began generating 221 megawatts (MW) as of 6:30 a.m. yesterday and was on

POWER / A11

US: Drugs may affect polls

Only quake can stop May polls, says Melo

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE AUTOMATED ELECTION system is so foolproof it can't be hacked and only a massive earthquake can stop the May 10 balloting, Election Chair Jose Melo said yesterday.

Melo and Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., chair of the House committee on suffrage and electoral reforms, said that it was virtually impossible to cheat electronically in the first nationwide computerized voting.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) chief also gave a "zero percent" possibility of a failure of elections.

"I don't entertain that idea. If there will be one, it means the Philippines was rocked by an earthquake just like other countries," he said.

Melo and Locsin visited the Cabuyao, Laguna, warehouse where the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines to be used in the polling and the ballots printed by the National Printing Office were stored.

"If I will corrupt the system or hack, I'd be better off just buying the election. So why cheat? If you've already spent a lot, just buy the elections and you're sure to win," Melo said in an interview after a hearing on the status of the preparations for the elections.

Melo said that even if Sen. Manny Villar had all the money, he could not buy everything. He

ONLY / A11



SISTERS ACT Daughters of the late President Corazon Aquino (from left) Ballsy Aquino-Cruz, Viel Aquino-Dee and Pinky Aquino-Abellada visit the Inquirer office in Makati City on Monday night. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Noynoy's sisters also want out of Luisita

By Philip C. Tubeza

THEY ALSO WANT OUT OF HACIENDA Luisita.

The sisters of Liberal Party (LP) standard-bearer Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III on Monday night said it was their dream to be divested of their interest in the Cojuangco-owned sugar plantation in Central Luzon.

Speaking with Inquirer editors and reporters, Maria Elena "Ballsy" Aquino-Cruz, Aurora Corazon "Pinky" Aquino-Abellada and Victoria Elisa "Viel" Aquino-Dee said that they and many of their cousins also wanted out of the hacienda but that they were having difficulty finding interested buyers because of its large debt and labor problems.

Abellada added that the government decision to nullify the stock distribution option at the hacienda could be "political harassment" because her mother, the late President Corazon Aquino, had called for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation after the "Hello Garci" scandal.

"Even when mom was alive, we really wanted out of that place except that nobody would buy our minority share,"

NOYNOY'S / A8

Narcotics trade in RP placed at $8.4B

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE US STATE DEPARTMENT has expressed deep concern that drug money could affect the outcome of the May 10 elections in the Philippines.

In its 2010 international narcotics control strategy report released in Washington on Tuesday, the state department said the Philippines' drug problem continued to pose a significant national threat, despite reports of a possible decline in the supply and demand of illegal drugs in parts of the country.

The annual report to the US Congress, prepared in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act, said that foreign-based drug trafficking operations remained the biggest challenge to Philippine law enforcement.

"With the upcoming 2010

US ILLEGAL / A19

SC: Appointed execs running now considered resigned

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

EFFECTIVE MARCH 2, APpointed officials running in the May 10 elections are considered resigned and should vacate their posts immediately, the Supreme Court has declared.

The Supreme Court yesterday closed the door to further petitions as it denied "with finality" the motion for reconsideration filed by administration election lawyer Romulo Macalintal against the high court's decision nine days ago.

The tribunal's ruling on Feb. 22 upheld the constitutionality of election rules that any appointed officials are considered automatically resigned upon the filing of their certificate of candidacy (CoC). The filing of a CoC was from Nov. 20 to Dec. 1 last year.

"That (motion for reconsideration) is denied with finality. No further pleadings shall be entertained. This means effective today (Tuesday), all appointive officials who filed their certificate of candidacy are deemed resigned," Court Administrator Midas Marquez told reporters after the full court session.

Marquez, concurrent Supreme Court spokesperson, said the tribunal again voted 10-5 to uphold its ruling on the constitutionality of Section 66 of the Omnibus

SC APPOINTED / A20



DEFENDING EDSA Akbayan militants hold a rally in front of the national headquarters of senatorial candidate Bongbong Marcos in Quezon City. The protesters asked voters to reject Marcos for saying Edsa I was a failure and the Marcos 20-year dictatorship was a far better regime.



GMA POSTER The face of outgoing Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo isn't on this political poster of his mother, President Arroyo, and other Lakas-Kampi CMD candidates in the second district where she is running for a congressional seat. So why is "Ang Galing Pinoy" party-list, which allegedly has Mikey as its nominee, splashed on the banner?

Public works scam eyed in Mayor's slay

By Nina Calleja, Marlon Ramos and Mar S. Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INVESTIGATORS YESTERDAY vowed to look into allegations that anomalies in public works projects may have been behind the murder of "jueteng" whistle-blower Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor and said one person they would talk to was an Albay construction magnate.

Police said they were also looking into claims that Mayor had been involved in gambling

PUBLIC / A19

Gordon accuses Villar of bribe attempt, buying off media

By Cathy C. Yamsuan and Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. RICHARD GORDON YESterday accused Sen. Manuel Villar, one of his rivals for the presidency, not only of bribery and bullying but also of buying off members of the media.

Gordon said in a live interview over radio station dzBB that through an emissary sent "about three days before the Senate ended its session" on Feb. 3, Villar offered him a Cabinet post and reimbursement of his campaign expenses in exchange for joining a plot to unseat Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and pulling out of the presidential race.

He said the emissary also asked that he withdraw his signature from the report of the Senate committee of the whole recommending Villar's censure in connection with the C-5 road extension controversy.

Gordon, the presidential candidate of the Bagumbayan party, likewise observed that his statements distributed to reporters were not being published or broadcast, and said it seemed that Villar had bought the media.

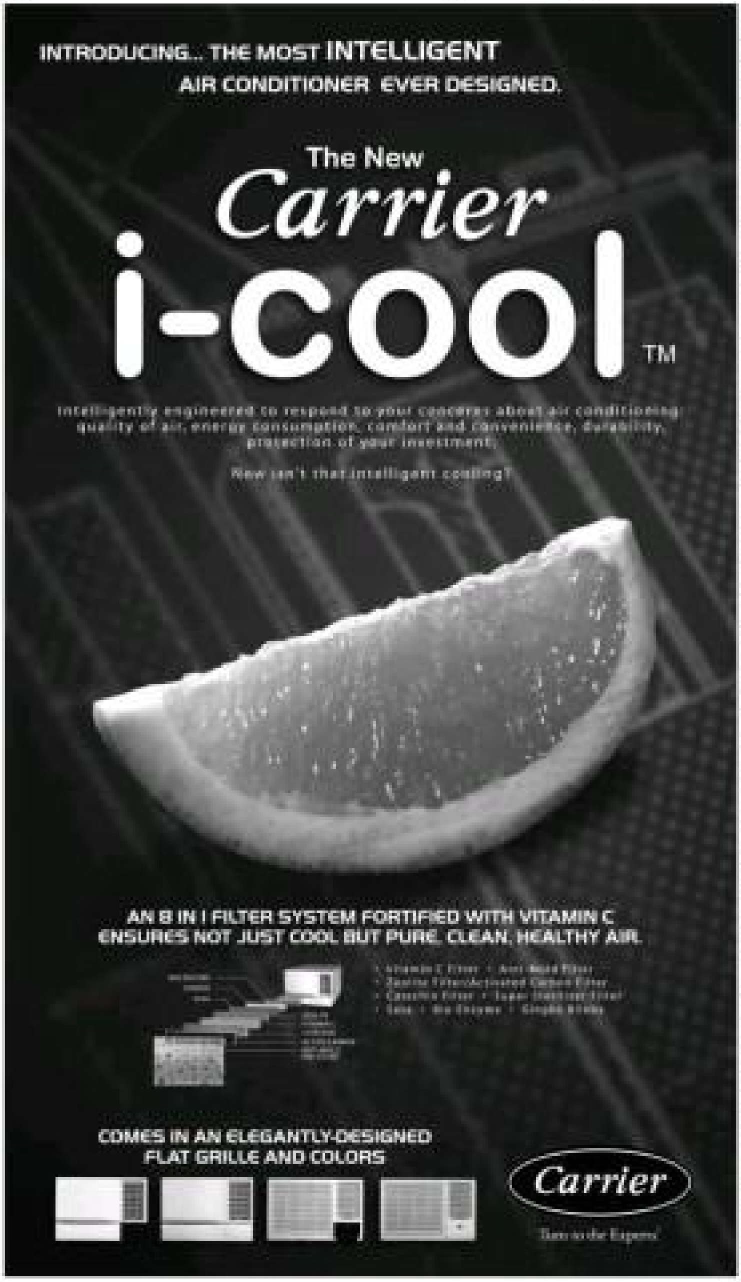
"It's like there is a wall. I might as well say this on national radio. There's a wall that blocks the things we want to say. There are those who are protecting Villar ... in the media," Gordon said in "Bare No [illegible]: The Presidential Interview" with Mike Enriquez.

"They are saying that my campaign is hopeless. Let's see

GORDON / A10

'NO URGENT MATTER'

JBC in no hurry to pick SC bets



A SUPREME COURT SPOKESperson explained that two immediate past meetings of the Judicial and Bar Council were canceled because there were "no urgent" matters to take up.

Screening bets



Quake rocks North; visiting GMA unfazed

AN EARTHQUAKE measuring 6.1 rocked Cagayan and other northeastern Luzon provinces yesterday morning but there were no immediate reports of damage, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported. [illegible]



[illegible]



LPU

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NOVEMBER 2009 NURSE LICENSURE EXAMINATION

LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY

LPU Manila

2009 - Ranked Number 3 nationwide with 91.43% passing average
2008 - Ranked Number 6 nationwide with 85.53% passing average
2007 - Ranked Number 1 nationwide with 100.00% passing average



LPU Batangas

2 out of 10 Topnotchers
Highest Number of Board passers in Region IV-A



LPU - St. Cabrini College of Allied Medicine

Ranked Number 1 in Batangas Province
Ranked Number 4 in Region IV-A

Mr. GT contest: Hunt for Gibo look-alike on

By Nancy C. Carvajal

Teodoro invades slums of Malabon

By TJ Burgonio

Kidnapped Chinese dies of kidney failure after rescue

AFP admits offer, denies it's a bribe

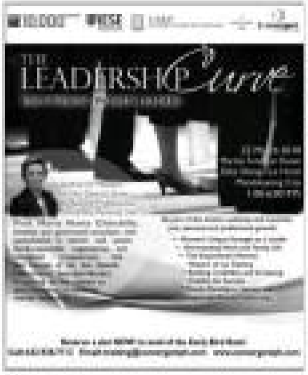
Melo says KBL bet is a nuisance

PGH row worsens; faculty joins fray

By Jeannette I. Andrade

Appeal for sobriety

Nothing's changed





INSIDE JOB?

Seized elephant tusks stolen

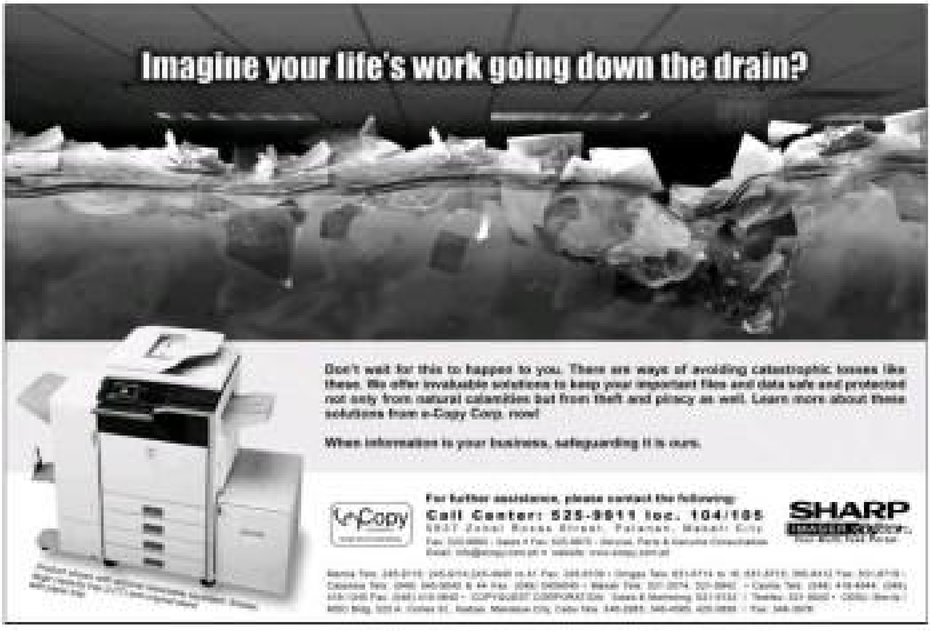


By Alcuin Papa

Inventory







US: Illegal drugs may affect results of RP polls

Down to 1.7M drug users

Transit point

Gordon accuses Villar of bribe attempt, buying off media



DICK AND MANNY

'I didn't do it'

One week before campaign

'I cannot be bought'

To be expected

Not that desperate

'I'm not like that'

Noynoy's sisters also want out of Hacienda Luisita

Complex issues

'Hello Garci' fallout

Debts due to medical bills

2004 massacre

Even Jinggoy 'blind' on electronic elections

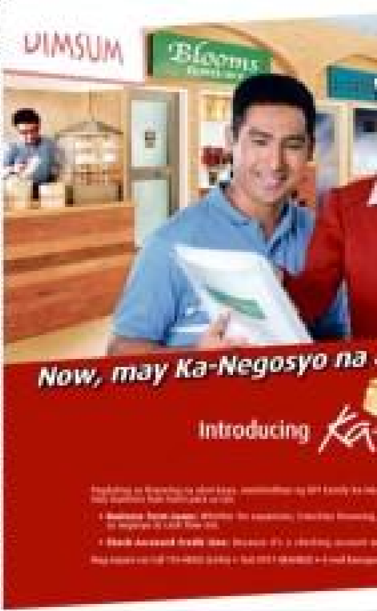
More information, please

Worrisome brownouts

'Only quake can stop polls,' says Melo





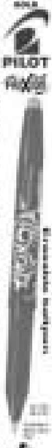




Call center party-list sets up HIV hotline







INQUIRER

OPINION

A risky gamble

EDITORIAL



What can GMA do to hike power, water supply?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Black and white

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OPINION

A 100-percent manual audit of AES?

COMMENTARY

Felicito C. Payumo

LGU power

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

The Aquino women

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

The Philippines at the dawn of the Space Age

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Bongbong's wrong, Edsa 1 not a failure

Clarification re new COA commissioner's term

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

So who's afraid of nuclear plants?

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Baguio City

REP. MARK COJUANGCO WANTS PANGASINAN to be the first province in the country to go nuclear. And he wants to build not one, but two nuclear power plants.



PANGASINAN'S coastal areas are being considered as sites of the nuclear power plants.

For Pangasinenses, the long road to nuclear power has just begun



COJUANGCO

No consultation

Environmentally critical

Nuclear components

No stake

Associate Editor: Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Heat dries up 2,000 ha of fishponds

SEVERE HEAT REACHing 38 degree Celsius is turning fishponds into dry beds of soil in Pampanga, prompting officials in Batangas to cry calamity and a Church leader in Iloilo to turn to the heavens for help.

In Candaba, Pampanga, an area known for seasonal flooding, at least 2,000 hectares of fishponds have dried up, forcing fishpond workers to shift to planting rice, which is also water dependent, and watermelon.

[illegible]

Dying fish

[illegible]



SEVERE heat is turning corn, like those in a farm in Barangay Carriedo in Rosales, Pangasinan, into barren crops. The destruction of farms wrought by the dry spell could run into billions of pesos.

[illegible]

State of calamity

[illegible]

Oratio Imperata

[illegible]

East Visayas spared from El Niño, say agri officials

By Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture (DA) in Eastern Visayas assured farmers they need not worry over the impact of El Niño because the region has been spared from its ill effects.

"Eastern Visayas is lucky enough," said Leo Cañeda, executive regional director of the Department of Agriculture.

[illegible]

GMA attributes tourism rise to nautical highway program

By Ivan H. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

[illegible]



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has her picture taken with the waters of Donsol, a whale shark sanctuary, in the background. Ms Arroyo has been touring the country to present her administration's achievements.

[illegible]

More peace monitors arriving to oversee Mindanao ceasefire

COTABATO CITY—TWENTY more peace monitors from [illegible] will be arriving in Mindanao to ensure compliance by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) with a ceasefire agreement.

[illegible]

Tarlac loses political giant with death of peacemaker Yap

TARLAC CITY—PEACEMAKER and one of Tarlac's political giants, Rep. Jose "Aping" Yap, died of prostate cancer on Monday night.

[illegible]

It's final: High court says VFA is legal



ANTI-VFA RALLY Students storm the US Embassy in this Aug. 21, 2009, file photo to protest the presence of American troops in the country

US troops' prolonged stay

In violation of RP rules

Challenge to next leader

'Shabby country cousin'

2 power plants back on line; brownouts over

Maintenance work

Kalayaan 3

Reserves up

Metrobank's power unit

Shortage in Mindanao

Bring it on

Public works scam eyed in Mayor's slay

DPWH denial

No deal with Mayor

No favorites

Not singled out

Financier named 'Flower'

Cruz willing to cooperate

SC: Appointed execs running now considered resigned

From page A1

Election Code and Section 13 of the Election Automation Law.

The tribunal reversed its 8-6 ruling of Dec. 1 last year that the long-standing election rule was unconstitutional and that appointed officials could stay on until the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term on June 30.

Marquez described as "plain and simple" the election provision on the automatic resignation of Cabinet members and other appointed officials, who filed their CoCs with the Commission on Elections.

No need for letter

"Since the court has spoken, all those who filed their CoC are considered resigned. 'Deemed resigned' means you don't have to file a resignation letter. The fact of filing a CoC automatically makes you resigned," he said.

"So, effective today they should be considered resigned already," Marquez added.

Macalintal, who represented Environment Undersecretary Eleazar Quinto and Finance Director Gerino Tolentino in their petition, accepted the high court's latest pronouncement.

"There is only one Supreme Court and let it remain that way. It is the final arbiter of all legal issues and once it renders a final and executory decision it forms part of the law of the land which must be respected and complied with by all concerned," Macalintal said in a text message sent to reporters.

Political ambition

Macalintal said it was not the end of the world for his clients "because that decision will not in any way affect their political ambitions."

Macalintal filed a motion for reconsideration on Monday asking the high court to "reconcile" its decision on the Quinto-Tolentino petition with its ruling on the Penera case.

He said the resignation of appointed officials should only take effect at the start of the campaign period, March 26 for local posts, and not upon the filing of a CoC.

Reinstated

Last Nov. 25, the Supreme Court reinstated Mayor Rosalinda Penera of Sta. Monica, Surigao del Norte, who was initially disqualified for campaigning ahead of the official campaign period.

The high court declared that a person who filed his CoC was only considered a candidate at the start of the campaign period.

Marquez said the Supreme Court justices did not see any conflict in its decisions on the Penera case and the Quinto-Tolentino petition.

"Those are two different issues. Regardless whether you're considered a candidate, you're still deemed resigned upon filing your CoC," he said.

Courting disqualification

Appointed officials take the risk of courting disqualification for using their office for electioneering if they refuse to leave their office immediately.

"That will be their own lookout. They might be liable for some violations," Marquez said.

Among appointed officials running in the May elections are six Cabinet members—Eduardo Ermita, Agnes Devanadera, Arthur Yap, Rolando Andaya, Raul Gonzalez and Hermogenes Esperon—and six Comelec officials.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes is a nominee of a party-list group.



EDUARDO ERMITA



ANGELO REYES

SPORTS

American tops stage; Anderson keeps lead



Giants won't let up vs Aces

Shaq out for the season, vows playoff return

Bench players fuel Suns win; Mavs spoil Jordan's day



JORDAN

Basketball over boxing

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

Standings Shake Up as Loyola Surge to the Top



Unite, Chiz tells sports officials

GET YOUR ACTS TOGETHER.



ALMOST THERE.





American. . .

Bill Shaw golf tees off

HK 42K run: Jho-Ann 3rd, Vertek 4th



25ers gain share of PBL Flex lead

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Nominations still up for RP Hall of Fame

Dina Marie Villena, 51

SPORTSWATCH

Karting Super Series on March 6 and 7

'King Solomon' derby

Park, Apalit rule Southwoods Senior


Two
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METRO

DID YOU KNOW



LEISURELY RIDE

'Century Park Hotel sale aboveboard'

MANILA CITY JAIL DRAMA

Prisoner kills self with jail guard's gun

AN INMATE AT THE MANILA CITY JAIL committed suicide on Monday afternoon inside the facility, shooting himself in the mouth using a jail guard's gun, the police said yesterday.



WATCH OUT BELOW

Coming soon: CCTVs on NLEx, SLEx

Court allows another doctor to examine Ivler

1,000 families in Navotas protest demolition



METROBRIEFS

Transport leader shot dead in Quezon City

Woman killed in case of hit-and-run

Woman shot dead while nursing baby



CREATIVE HANDS

Bailout sparks riot outside Indon parliament



Parents say docs hastened death for dying kids

Obama taps America's CEOs for lunch bunch



Desserts to blame for Obama's higher cholesterol

WorldBriefs

Weedkiller turns male frogs into females

Chinese student kills roommate over snoring

Fossils of snake eating dino eggs found in India

Shanghai declares smoking ban ahead of Expo

Hello again to Leno, back as 'Tonight' host

The WORLD

Bus full of retirees swept away by tsunami

PELLUHUE, CHILE—The 40 retirees enjoying summer vacation at a seaside campground nestled under pine trees knew they had to move fast after Chile's powerful earthquake struck.



A STATUE of Saint Therese of Lisieux stands amid the destruction wrought by Saturday's predawn 8.8-magnitude earthquake and the tsunami that devastated communities along Chile's coast.

Church becomes morgue

Trapped beneath house

First to shout warning

In ruined Haiti schools, educators see opportunity



TWO OF Haiti's 1.2-million homeless people build a makeshift tent in preparation for the rainy season.

IN THIS ISSUE

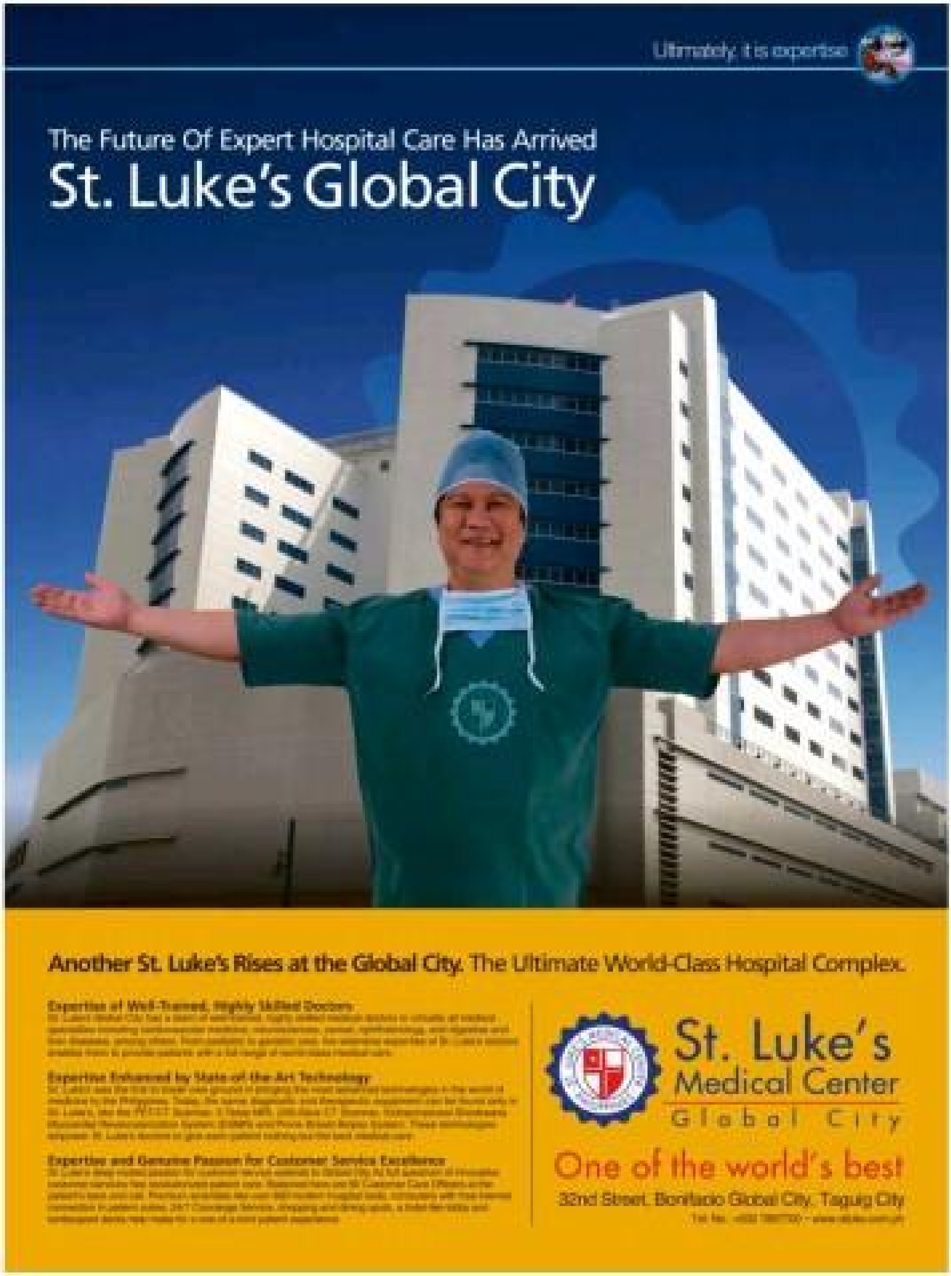
- Century spending ₱6.3B for new project /B5
- El Niño crop damage stands at P11B /B8

BUSINESS

San Miguel bags Luzon toll road project

Expressway to run from Quezon City to Tuguegarao

SAN MIGUEL CORP. HAS TURNED UP THE HEAT IN THE ongoing battle for dominance of the country's lucrative network of toll road systems by taking control of a little-known but strategically important highway project.



Ionics to delist subsidiary from Singapore exchange

Fil-Estate resurgence

Biz Buzz
By the staff

ING Investment's new CEO

P8.5B raised from sale of 3-yr treasury bonds

Patients from All Walks of Life Experience World-Class Amenities at St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City



PLDT net profit grew 15% in 2009 to ₱39.8B

'Slightly higher' income seen this year

Profit-taking halts stock surge

San Miguel …



Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

Century spending P6.3B for new project

Resort-themed venture features man-made beach

By Doris C. Dumlao

Makati urged to sharpen edge in BPO sector

By Abigail L. Ho

ExxonMobil finds gas in Dabakan-1

By Amy R. Remo

MVP group seen exercising call option

By Paolo G. Montecillo

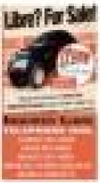
Biz Buzz

METRO SOUTH COOPERATIVE BANK

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2009





RP companies' access to credit improving, BSP survey reveals

Credit access index highest in eight quarters

Prices of building materials declining

5 groups eye LNG terminals in RP

For group of thrift banks, bigger isn't necessarily better

El Niño crop damage stands at P11B

299,000 tons of rice wasted away in dry spell, say execs

BSP to hone traders' competitive edge

MOTORING

Oh my gas, it's free!

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AN AVERAGE FAMILY WITH WORKING parents and kids going to school easily spends P5,000 a month on gas.

So how about earning P1,000 of it back by simply sticking on a company's logo or product on the family car and staying true to the usual routes from the home to the office, school and back?

That's the enticing proposition that gave rise to My Free Gas, a fledgling marketing company set up just over a month ago by a group of friends led by [illegible], a financial planner who won the 2009 Philippine Production Car Championship.

[illegible] said the idea to set up My Free Gas arose when an oil company executive approached him for a possible sponsorship. In exchange for 100 liters of gasoline, all he had to do was stick the company's logo on his race car.

Since so much of his racing expense goes to gas, it was an offer he could not resist. And he felt that the ordinary motorists would find a similar proposal irresistible, too.

My Free Gas has thus built a marketing company around giving the car-driving public P1,000 worth of gas every month in exchange for carrying the sticker of an advertiser.

Anybody who has watched sports on television can see that the concept has been around for a long time, just think of Ferrari with all the logos of advertisers displayed on its Formula 1 cars.

Through My Free Gas, Filipinos could do the same with ordinary cars.

"Corporations have money to market their products," says [illegible]. "We are keen on helping them increase their exposure, supplementing the billboard ads available on the road at lower costs. In addition we are equally committed to giving back to the people something tangible for "carrying a brand"—free gas.

My Free Gas is barely a month old, and already the car owner membership base on its Facebook page is starting to swell. Apart from [illegible], who is president of the company, My Free Gas is jointly owned by [illegible], who is its CEO, [illegible]'s wife [illegible], and [illegible]'s husband, [illegible].

All a car owner has to do is log on to myfreegas.com.ph and register his car. A car owner can sign up to five cars. It takes no more than a minute or two to register. All details about car make, color, daily routes, average monthly mileage and gasoline expense are collated into a database that will be used to match the target profile chosen by an advertiser.

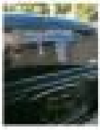
Once the car matches the needs of an advertiser, the car owner will get a call with instructions on how to get his sticker.

The sticker measures 20x3.5 inches and will be positioned on either the rear bumper or windshield of a car. The sticker has a serial number and is tamper resistant. It is made with a special adhesive that will not affect the finish of your car when removed. All stickers will only have the logo or website of an advertiser. My Free Gas will not allow inappropriate images to be used on the sticker.

Car owners interested in signing up for the program must make sure to travel a minimum of 500 kms per month.



MY Free Gas offers the car-driving public P1,000 worth of gas every month for a sticker.



According to [illegible]'s estimates, an average family with one car, with either parent driving to and from office, and two children brought to and fetched from school, can easily rack up a mileage of 500 kms in less than a month.

This early, My Free Gas has already signed up Rapide and Caltex as the strategic partners. Rapide will attach the sticker to the participating cars and key in the sticker's serial number to a web-based monitoring system, and will also be the only authorized agency to remove the sticker at the end of the month or at the end of a contract.

Caltex will be supplying the free gas for all car-owner participants. The free gas will be given at the end of the month in the form of a Caltex Starcard.

While similar car/mobile advertising systems exist within Metro Manila, unlike MyFreeGas, they don't offer advertisers a control system that will allow them to monitor the mileage of each car assigned under their corresponding ad campaign 24/7.

Rather than spending millions in traditional marketing channels that have proven to be very expensive throughout the years, My Free Gas offers a more direct way of marketing products.

With My Free Gas, companies are sure that their message gets through straight to their target customers.

To register and know more about My Free Gas, visit www.myfreegas.com.ph.

AAP to SC: Stop RFID

By the Inquirer Motoring Staff

MORE LEGAL COMPLICATIONS LOOM for the controversial Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Project of the Department of Transportation and Communications, Land Transportation Office and Stradcom Corporation. Last Monday, March 1, the Automobile Association Philippines filed a petition-in-intervention before the Supreme Court to nullify the project on the grounds that their acts implementing it are unconstitutional, invalid and illegal. Represented by lawyer Jerome C. de Guzman, AAP prayed the court to permanently prohibit the DOTC, LTO and Stradcom from further implementing the RFID Project and from requiring RFID tagging as a prerequisite for the renewal of registration of motor vehicles.

Mel Dizon bids Mitsu goodbye

FROM cars and trucks to motorbikes. That's where Melchor "Mel" Dizon is supposed to be going after one of the industry's most revered figures decided to end his career spanning 36 long years at the Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. He retires on April 1. Dizon went through the ranks from a market analyst, reaching the position of senior vice president for marketing then finally, industrial relations. He saw the best and the worst of Mitsubishi's bid for market dominance and armed with this long experience, he's ready for the next challenge reportedly as general manager of a giant motorcycle firm.

Koakie jar of love

THE WELL-LOVED Koakie Ramirez—accomplished classic racer, motoring journalist, son of the legendary [illegible] Ramirez and now currently undergoing treatment for cancer—recently got an outpouring of love from colleagues in the industry. A fundraising activity-cum-concert was held at Route 196 in Quezon City (the venue co-owned by [illegible], who agreed to hold the event there for free). Other bands who performed for free were [illegible]. The Koakie Jar raised P112,000 in checks, cash and pledges. The organizers are hoping to raise up to P200,000 when the corporate donations and personal pledges come in.

Deadly C-5 accident

ANOTHER horrifying accident along C-5 claimed the lives of two young motorists and caused serious injuries to another motorist. [illegible], scion of the family which owns [illegible], and [illegible] were with [illegible] in a red Audi A4 when the speeding car rammed into an electric post. Police were quoted as saying that the impact was so strong that the engine flew out of the vehicle and landed on a passing van.



Taking the Chevy challenge



By Tessa R. Salazar

THE CHEVY CRUZE'S MUCH-TALKED ABOUT UNVEILING LAST FEB. 26 MARKED THE Covenant Car Company Inc.'s initial foray in the Philippine market. This compact sedan is seen to go head-to-head with Toyota Altis, Honda Civic, Mitsubishi Lancer and Mazda3.



Pre-launch test

Cruze: Value-for-money

Captiva: Choice of gas or diesel

Aveo: More bacon for the buck

Camaro RS

Chevrolet: More than 50 years of RP presence

By Aldo Uy

Yulivo Camaros

Driving impressions of the sedans

By Aida Sevilla Mendoza



Chevrolet Cruze

Chevrolet Aveo

Discovering new places with the Alterra



IMPROVED audio and video system assures a ride of comfort and joy for passengers of the new Isuzu Alterra.

By Charles E. Buban

WITH HOT AND DRY days coming earlier than expected this year, more and more people will surely venture to far off destinations to cool down.

"For this, you need a comfortable and dependable ride with ample legroom and enough gadgetry to keep you entertained during the long drive," said Isuzu Philippines Corp. president Ikuji Takeda during the introduction of the 2010 Alterra.

Takeda said that ever since the Alterra was introduced in 2006, the diesel-powered SUV has set the standard in comfort and dependability.

"We will again prove this as you head to Bicol for this year's first media activity of IPC, 'Trailing Southern Luzon with the 2010 Isuzu Alterra and Cafe's Tour of Bicol (Galera), Trekreme II'. The road is long, circuitous and will be bumpy on a lot of portions, but you'll be in good hands," promised Takeda as he led the flag off of the participants in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

All the comforts

That day, we knew our trip would be long—540 kilometers in total—and we would need all the comforts the Alterra could provide us.

Traveling over land for 10 to 12 hours is not easy but the Alterra's Flex Ride Motor suspension system certainly made the travel a lot bearable, absorbing the ruts and bumps courtesy of cracked and uneven roads as well as unpaved portions.

The Alterra has been built for comfort ever since its introduction. For this year's edition, passengers will be well entertained, thanks to the new double DIN entertainment system that is already navigation-ready. There are also two seven-inch wide-screen, high-resolution headrest-mounted monitors with tilting function located at the back of the front seats, 10 speakers with detachable active subwoofer, DTS and Dolby digital decoder, 5.1-channel digital surround, SD card reader, and Bluetooth connectivity.

Apart from new 16-inch 'machine finished' alloy wheels and lighter wood grain line on the instrument panel," described IPC SVP Stefan Balmaceda.

Joseph Bautista, IPC product development head, added that this is the first time IPC offered an navigation in the new Alterra the Isuzu Navigation system (available as a dealer option for an additional P18,000), which is basically an onboard GPS navigator accessible via the 7-inch touch screen on the dash.

More enjoyable

"Once you mastered the controls, the navigation system will make the travel more enjoyable as you are instantly informed where the nearest fuel station or what restaurants are located nearby as well as how near or far you are to your target destination," explained Bautista.

After 12 hours and one very short ferry transfer to Cagraray Island—30 km north of Legazpi City—our convoy finally reached Misibis Bay Resort, world-class luxury resort located on the southeastern part of the island.

"It's quite surprising to know that a topnotch resort and spa now exists in Albay and we would like more people to know this. The long travel only makes the arrival there more exciting. Of course, a 50-minute plane ride to Legazpi Airport would definitely shorten the travel but where's the fun in that?," said Takeda.

Beside, it's much more economical to travel by land especially that the Alterra's 3.0-liter, Euro-2 compliant turbo diesel engine could travel 30 plus kilometers on a liter of fuel.

The 2010 Isuzu Alterra is available in several variants, namely, the P1.498 million (4x2 M/T); P1.55 million (4x2 A/T); P1.515 million (4x2 M/T); P1.565 million (4x2 A/T); P1.668 million (4x4 M/T); and P1.696 million (4x4 A/T).

Honda offers something new to Civic Republic

HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES, INC. (HCPI) continues to deliver pure intensity with the 2010 Civic. Sporting a refreshed dynamic styling, the Civic now comes with a newly designed 16" (5x6-D) sensational, multi-spoke alloy wheels for its best-selling 1.8 S variant to create a more outstanding and sharper look. The new alloy wheel design enhances its sporty and drawn on exciting balance between aerodynamic body styling and aggressive stance.

Always offering something new to its discerning customers, Honda also introduces Polished Metal color to its 1.8 S and 2.0 S Civic variants for that added flair of sporty and modern character.

"There are several factors consumers consider in buying a car and color is one of the significant drivers in finalizing their decision," said Hiroshi Shimizu, President and General Manager of Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. "Nowadays, consumers are getting savvy about the latest color trends. And so, we continue to revitalize our color line-up to suit the market's dynamic taste and preference. With a sleek Polished Metal body color matched with a bolder alloy wheel design, the Civic is designed to add vitality in its class," Mr. Shimizu added.

The 2010 Civic continues to exude that distinctive character that has carved its winning heritage—spirited driving performance, technologically-advanced features and bold styling.

To bring out added fun in driving, the Civic comes with a race-inspired paddle shift technology. The fun-to-use technology available in 1.8 S and 2.0 S variants, enables manual shifting of gears without the clutch. Conveniently located behind the steering wheel, the paddle shift option delivers superb driving pleasure of a manual transmission right at your fingertips.

The 2010 Civic shall retail at:
1.8-liter SOHC i-VTEC 1.8 V M/T P968,000; 1.8 V A/T P998,000; 1.8 S M/T P023,000; 1.8 S A/T P073,000; 2.0-liter DOHC i-VTEC 2.0 S AT P1.110 million (plus P20,000 for Brilliant White Pearl Color)

The biggest Subaru

ON THE ROAD



Aida Sevilla-Mendoza





THE INTERIOR: stylish design and practicality



ENORMOUS cargo volume with the third row front seat folded down

Nimble

Inside

Safe

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Don't judge a book by its cover.

Driving Impressions

2010 Chevrolet Camaro RS

Chevy's traffic-stopper of a launch

















LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining







Despite freezing weather, Ambiente house ware and gifts exhibit shows the European market recovering from deep recession

RICHARD Dumo and Markus Schmidt of Firma Home

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Frankfurt home fair features best of Philippine designs

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

AT LAST, AFTER SEVERAL seasons in a recession, the lucrative European market for furniture and home accessories is beginning to show signs of recovery.

Some 40 Filipino companies braved freezing weather to woo this huge market by showcasing their latest products at the recent Ambiente house ware and gifts fair in Frankfurt. The annual fair is one of several yearly events organized by Messe Frankfurt.

A good number of exhibitors such as Peter & Paul, Firma Home, Hobbit Heritage and Challenger tapped into the country's rich marine resources to spruce up their

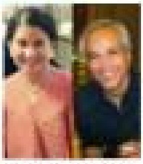


JAPANESE paper designer Wataru Sakuma of Hoyo


THE GANG: Carla Tengco, Lisa Valencia, Vicenta and Margarita Fores


DONDIE Tambunting with businessman and golfer Johnny Velasquez


[illegible] and Maripi Mercado


PILAR Martinez Miranda and realtor Freddie Olbes


THE CELEBRATOR with Karen Santos and [illegible] Co-Ampong de Panopolos, visiting from Paris

Cakes and candelabra make for a unique birthday party

I[illegible] INTERIOR DESIGNER Anton Rodriguez Mendoza held a get-together of his intimate, [illegible] friends in a posh village. It was his way of getting his closest pals together for a [illegible] dinner so as to celebrate another blessed and successful year of his life.

Starting off with cocktails, the group couldn't have enough of chit-chat about travel, art, [illegible] a superb collection of [illegible], the contemporary of the host, and [illegible]—politics! Politics! Politics!


WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using [illegible] Photo Solutions

From the living room we moved to his [illegible] dining room for a superbly prepared dinner by brilliant chef Margarita Fores. Two dishes were contributed by Pilar Martinez Miranda, one of Anton's [illegible], who can whip a dish that can get the applause of any true gourmand, palangga.

Then it was time to blow the candle away to end the old year and welcome the new one. Actually, the candles were on two birthday cakes that were carried by Lisa Valencia and Benjamin Yang, and in a candelabra carried by his close friend, [illegible] personality Baby Araneta Fores (since she didn't need a cake, dahlings!).

By 1 a.m. it was time to say "Thank You" to our perfect host and dash home to bed.

But not for our birthday boy. By 9 a.m. he was in Baseco, Tondo, to continue his celebration with 250 new "friends"—the children of the community. The get-together was arranged by his pal Margarita Fores. Instead of being the recipient of birthday gifts, Anton chose to make the Baseco kids the celebrators; he distributed food to them.

Wow! It was a great way to start another new page in Anton's already hectic life.


BABY Araneta Fores carrying a candelabra, with birthday boy Anton Rodriguez Mendoza; at right, Benjamin Yang holding the cake for the celebrator's candle-blowing


THE CELEBRATOR marks his birthday by distributing goodies to 250 new friends in Baseco.


MARGARITA Fores oversees the distribution of food.


YOUNG kid enjoying his food.


MOTHER watching over her daughter.

Vintage advantage

The chic Red of Makati Shangri-La became the venue for connoisseurs and well-chosen guests to sample the world-renowned Veuve Clicquot's extraordinary range of excellent champagnes, dahlings.

Cocktails were free-flowing. Served was Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label, natch. Equally impressive were the absolutely awesome Veuve Clicquot [illegible] vintages in Rich and Vintage Rosé, which surprisingly were paired with champagne, as if they were red wine.

The Veuve Clicquot Vintage Rosé, with its robust aroma of wild strawberry, raspberry and gooseberry, complemented the [illegible]. It was an excellent pairing with the [illegible], masterfully presented in the [illegible] gourmands, palangga.

You can be sure that the next Veuve Clicquot vintage will definitely be another winner. But in the meantime, all [illegible] of excellent food and superb champagne enjoy the remaining bottles of the other Veuve Clicquot vintage. That is, if you're lucky enough to find one.

It was totally a vintage adventure—having an excellent dinner with one of the best champagnes in the world, dahlings.


BEAUTIES in a row: [illegible] Moreno-Antonio, Vicki De Leon, Heidi Ng and Stephanie Zubiri


GERRY [illegible], Barbara Alvarez and [illegible]

Oyster Bay

The much-awaited new [illegible] in Cebu is now open! The who's who of Cebu society trooped to the Oyster Bay Seafood Restaurant during its opening, congratulating Rosendo Alegrado and his clan as they dined on the delectable dishes.

They all marveled at the immaculately clean showcase of aquariums featuring a wide variety of live seafood—the exotic [illegible] (clam), spiny lobsters, groupers, sea bass, blue and mud crabs, rock lobsters, just naming a few what you can expect, palangga.

The pièce de résistance were tons of delectable and succulent oysters, dahlings, plus loads of other yummy favorites—[illegible] in Cebu before ([illegible] style), plus, plus.

The feast did not end there, palangga. Guests stayed and enjoyed the beautiful "beach resort in the city" ambiance of the place—the white sand, the coconut trees and the outdoor couches under [illegible] overlooking a [illegible] pond, would you believe?

Meanwhile, percussion band [illegible] and fire dancers kept everyone on a roll. Guests partook the free-flowing wine and [illegible] beer.

With all that booze and oysters all night long, no wonder everyone had a very fun time, Cebu-style.

Check this resto out, palangga. It definitely is a must go-to resto in Cebu.

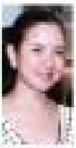
Oyster Bay Seafood Restaurant is at Bridges Town Square, Plaridel Street, Mandaue City. Call [illegible].


MOET-HENNESSY brand development manager Randy Uson, Moet-Hennessy [illegible] representative Olga Alvarez and Shangri-La Makati GM [illegible]

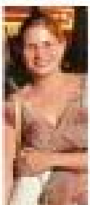

SEVRINE [illegible] and Ken Alvarez


ANTHONY San Pedro and Jeff Isidro


CATHIA [illegible] and Fely [illegible]


MIA Borromeo


RIO [illegible], Christopher [illegible] and Anne Kenneth Guillen


MELISSA Fores-[illegible]


AGNES and Greg [illegible] with Mary Anne and David [illegible]


JAY [illegible], Maricel [illegible] and Richard [illegible]


KELLY [illegible], Franklin Ngo and Jun Alvarez


ALEGRADO clan: Rosendo, Oyster Bay Restaurants main man Dominic, Ed and Clifford

Brighten your home with orchids

They're low-maintenance, and last longer than cut flowers

By Irene C. Perez

[illegible]



PHALAENOPSIS [illegible]



POTINARA [illegible]



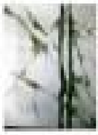
WINNER of Best Phalaenopsis Award at the 64th Annual Orchid and Garden Show, on view until March 8 at the Manila Seedling Bank, QC



BEST CATTLEYA [illegible]

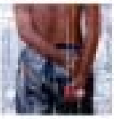
Watercolor exhibit in Baguio

WHAT'S UP



[illegible]

Art forum at Lopez Museum



[illegible]

Anniversary show at Kaida

[illegible]









Frankfurt home fair features best of Philippine designs







Bigger market













Do-it-yourself

Change the look of your sofa with throw pillows



GREEN, a cool color, is often used in decorating for its calming and relaxing effect. An olive pillow combined with a tropical print will give your sofa a refreshing makeover.



NEUTRAL colors like browns and beiges create a light, breezy, airy palette.



DEEP metallic colors and damask prints add instant luxury and elegance.

DECORATIVE PILLOWS will effortlessly change the look of your sofa by introducing color, texture and pattern. They come in many shapes, sizes and fabrics and are easily available and affordable.



RICH colors like orange and vermilion impart a warm and vibrant mood.

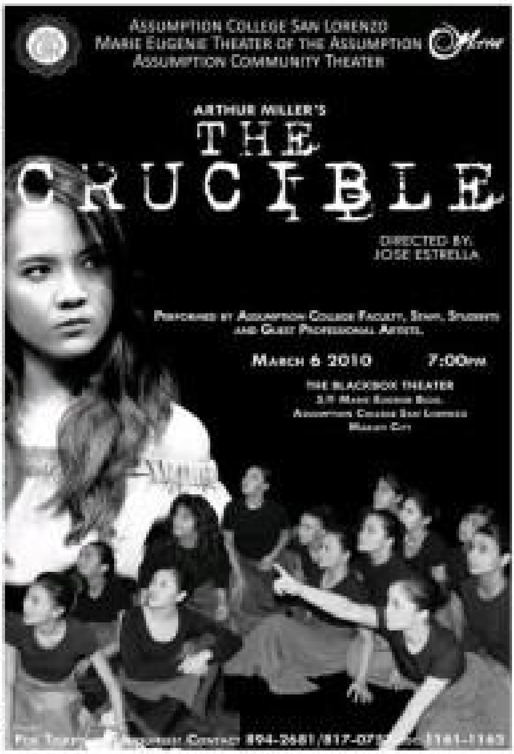
Cebu int'l furniture show March 5-8

E-waste, emerging environmental problem

THE CONSUMER

DTI complaint

Grateful customer



Garden of interesting shapes and sizes





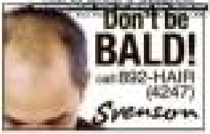




Bobby Gopiao's landscaped space explodes with herbaceous tropical plants and lush bonsais

Eclectic

LIFESTYLE Parenting





Eight things a young CEO learned from his father



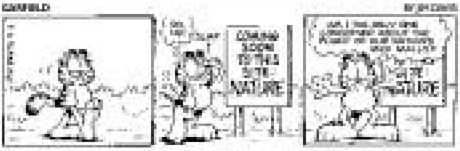
'When you promise something, you have to deliver'

Following the rules

God-centric



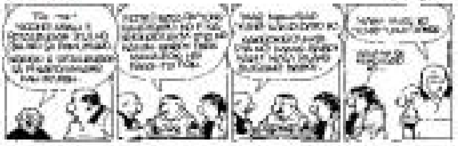
GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. UPIN



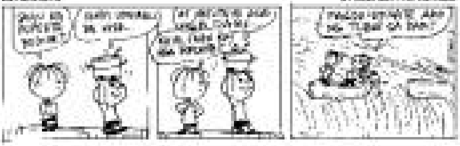
PUGAD BABOY — BY PM JUNIOR



DICK TRACY

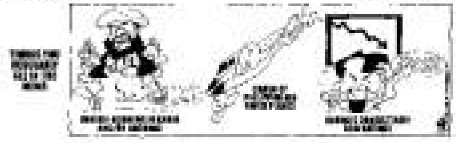


LOVELIGHTS

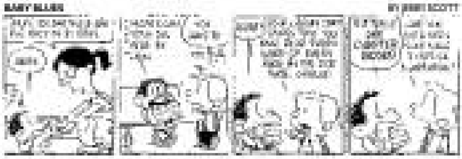


JAMES BOND



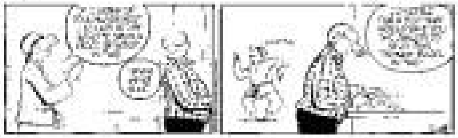


BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT





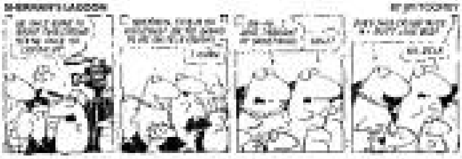
ZITS



KIKO MACHINE



SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

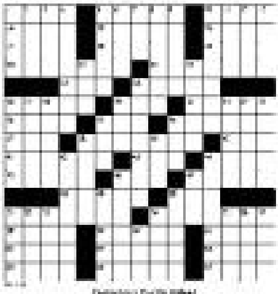
Concepts Sudoku

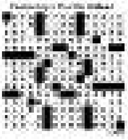
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

		5	3	9	7	4		
	7						3	
6								
5								
9				1	4	8	6	5
2								3
1								9
	4						7	
		2	5	4	9	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





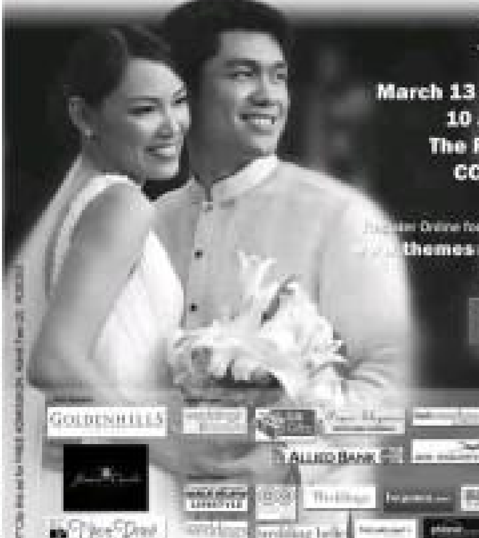
In this pre-school, music is medium of instruction

Ordinary children's songs become tools for kids' holistic development









Eight things a young CEO learned from his father

[illegible]



[illegible]

Family time

[illegible]



BEDAZZLE LIKE A PROM PRINCESS WITH STILA



[illegible]



[illegible]





ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Bernie G. Velarde



Hysteria at the Big Dome

THE BACKSTREET Boys drew a crowd of wildly screaming fans, four years after their last gig at the same venue.

REVIEW

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE TWENTYSOMETHING GIRL behind us couldn't contain her self. "Ohmygoddddd!" she yelled, as many others like her broke into hysterics at the Backstreet Boys concert Saturday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Four years ago, it was the exact same way Filipino fans expressed their idolatry of the American group, the world's biggest-selling and most popular boy band to date.

Though long past its prime and minus Kevin Richardson, who has left the group, BSB managed to put on a better show compared to the last one.

Nick Carter, the heartthrob at the height of the group's fame in the '90s, had shed excess weight and displayed a buff physique, which allowed him to dance in synch with the choreographed numbers.

Even if there was just one DJ to provide the backing music, the sound was full, mixed at a high volume—too loud for some of the parents who watched with their kids—and hit us like a big wave of energy.

Four female dancers joined the Boys onstage, adding spice to some of the sexually suggestive dance moves.

During certain transitions and costume changes, a video screen showed digitally enhanced scenes from popular movies in which each BSB member interacted with the likes of Vin Diesel in "Fast and Furious," Ed Norton in "Fight Club," and Laurence Fishburne in "The Matrix,"

HYSTERIA A1

Why Marian's 'Darna' sidekick is at her beck and call offscreen

DOLLY WOO
Dolly Anne Carvajal



A STUDIO INSIDER OVERHEARD MARIAN Rivera saying to some of her "Darna" costars that if they are nice to her, she will recommend that they be included in her next projects. Rosanna Roces, who portrays Marian's sidekick in the telefantasya, apparently took the actress' word for it, so she is at her beck and call.

"Nakakaloka si Rosanna. Sipsip na sipsip siya kay Marian," revealed my source. "Sobrang sunud-sunuran kay Marian. Like, if Marian is looking for her next outfit, [illegible]."

Hopefully Rosanna's efforts won't be in vain.

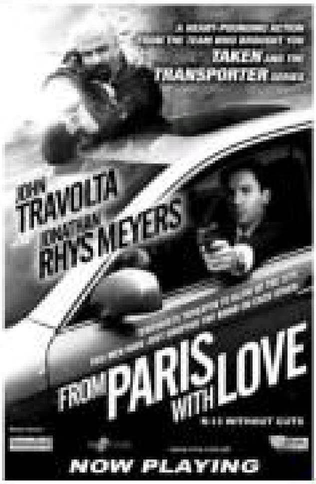
* * *

[illegible] is planning to spend Holy Week in Maldives with her ex, [illegible] and their kids [illegible] and

WHY MARIAN'S A1

OVERHEARD

LOS ANGELES—SINGER MARIE OSMOND, on the death of her teenaged adopted son, who jumped from a building in downtown Los Angeles: "My family and I are devastated and in deep shock by the tragic loss of our dear Michael and ask that everyone respect our privacy during this difficult time." Reuters



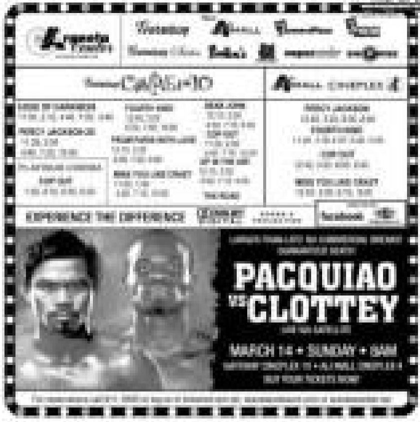
















Hysteria at the Big Dome

From page E1

among others.

A.J. McLean was the most vocally impressive as he sang the lead in "Love is All I Have To Give," even as Brian Littrell and Carter drew loud cheers in "Quit Playing Games With My Heart" and "As Long As You Love Me," respectively.

While "Show Me the Meaning of Being Lonely" was being performed, we noticed many in the crowd holding up their [illegible] on video mode. They [illegible] of the show was over.

Back soon!

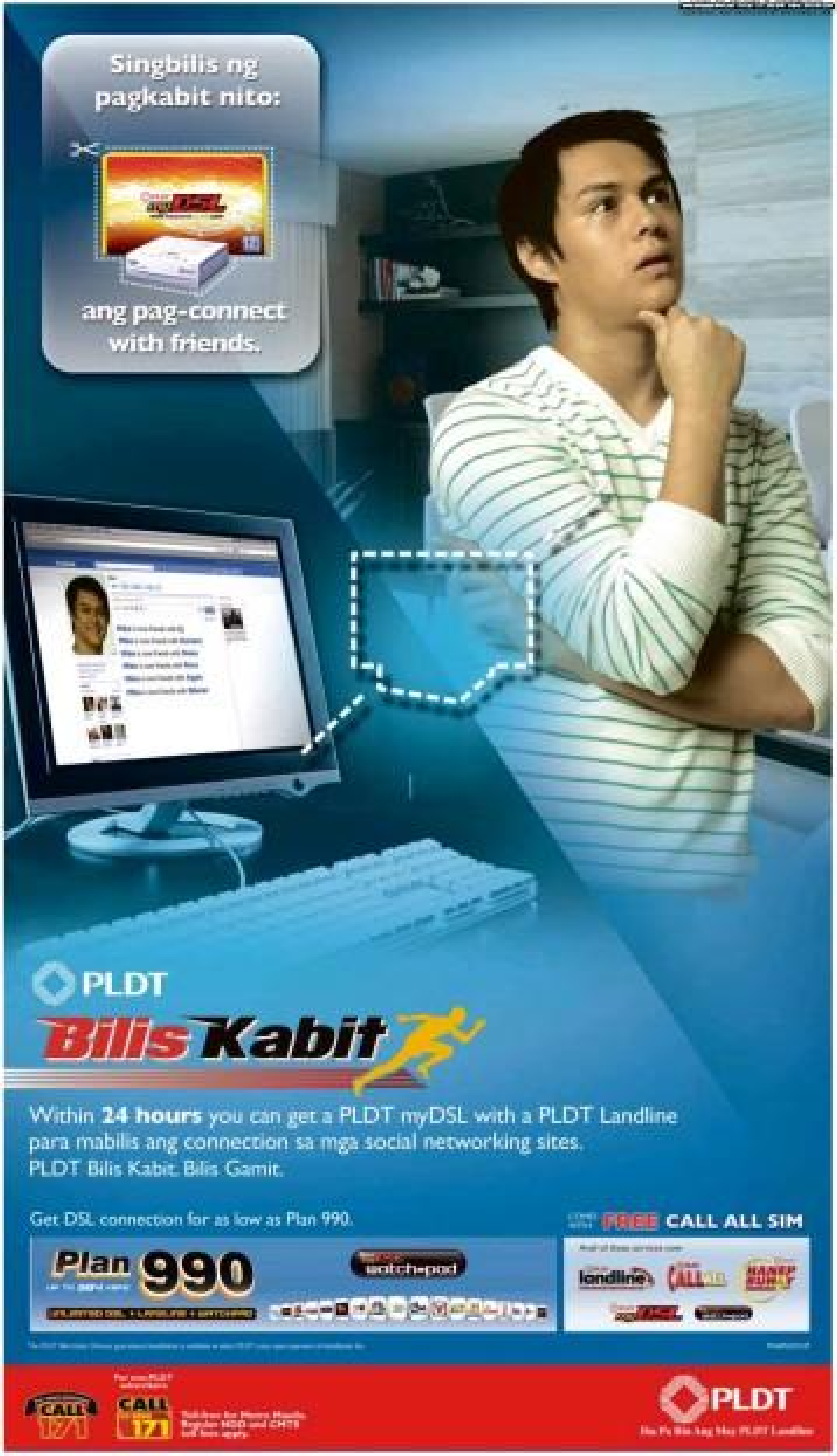
The fans couldn't have enough of BSB, probably because they had no opportunity to see the group at its peak in the 1990s.

When Carter took off his shirt, revealing toned biceps, another girl went to come dangerously close to fainting.

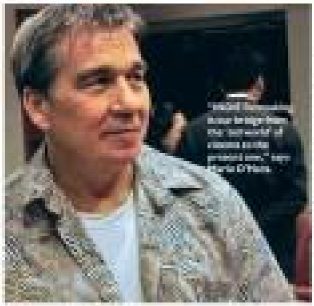
Could the group then look forward to coming back soon? In 2008 some 10,000 people saw them at the Big Dome. Last Saturday more than 11,000 tickets were sold.

At the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel a few hours before show time, group member Howie Dorough told us that touring has become a necessity for most bands and artists in the wake of declining record sales.

That's why there have been so many big concerts of late, here and elsewhere around the globe.


Singbilis ng pagkabit nito:
ang pag-connect with friends.
PLDT
Bilis Kabit
Within 24 hours you can get a PLDT myDSL with a PLDT Landline para mabilis ang connection sa mga social networking sites.
PLDT Bilis Kabit. Bilis Gamit.
Get DSL connection for as low as Plan 990.
FREE CALL ALL SIM
Plan 990
landline
CALL 171
CALL 171
PLDT


PLDT
Bilis Kabit
Bilis Kabit. Bilis Gamit.
Caloocan, Pasay and Cavite
welcome summer with PLDT Bilis Kabit offerings
Affordable, reliable and really fast. Sulit na sulit sa PLDT Bilis Kabit!
CALL 171
Masaya ka na sa bilis ng PLDT Bilis Kabit!
Tumawag sa 171 para malaman kung kailan pupunta ang PLDT Bilis Kabit Team sa inyong barangay!
landline
PLDT



Mario O'Hara revisits Andres Bonifacio trial

TAKE FIVE

Ms Controversy back in fighting form





Good riddance?





Hot wheels for hot kid

RUSHES

False promises

Wrong belle



Top of the talk shows



'Teleserye' drama far from genuinely affecting

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

Avoid pitfalls

Palpable angst





Depp Japan's fave for 7th year

TOKYO—MOVIEGOERS IN JAPAN can't get enough of Johnny Depp. The "Pirates of the Caribbean" star has been named favorite actor for a record seventh straight year in a survey by Japanese film magazine "Screen."

That topped the previous record of six consecutive years for Audrey Hepburn in the early 1960s in Screen's annual "Golden Grand Prix" readers' poll, which the magazine has been conducting since 1952.

Depp, who was named People magazine's "sexiest man alive" for a second time last year, picked up over 4,500 votes for top actor, more than double the number for "Twilight" heartthrob Robert Pattinson in second place. "Inglourious Basterds" star Brad Pitt was third.

"His popularity hasn't gone down since the time of the first 'Pirates of the Caribbean' movie," Screen's editor in chief, Akihiro Yamazaki, said. Reuters

Why Marian's...

From page E1

Quark. They will also celebrate Carmella's birthday there.

In this part of her latest quest Ron... so stay away from Hayden Kho? She broke her promise to herself not to communicate with Hayden when she showed up at his hearing, to give him moral support.

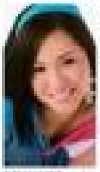
At the press con she hosted for Belo Medical Group's new endorsers, Jennylyn Mercado and Valerie Concepcion, she confidently exclaimed, "I'm addicted to Hayden!" She's just being true to herself, which is one trait I really admire in her. Vicki keeps on loving people even at their most unlovable.

Actually, she needs no "hot mama" endorsers like Jen and Val because she's Belo's best walking advertisement.

* * *

I cried buckets while watching the interviews of Michael Jackson's band members and production staff in the "This Is It" DVD Special features section. I was deeply moved when MJ's musical director Michael Bearden said, "MJ told me to remain humble so God won't take away the gifts He gave me. When I told MJ that his gifts are greater than mine, he told me not to think that way. MJ said that, together, we should use our gifts to help others find their own God-given gifts."

My honest idol MJ is truly a gift from up above who keeps giving even when he's already gone.


ROXANNE Barcelo

Guess Who

• The gay manager of a hunky actor confronted his ward's actress-GF: "Is my boy an obsession to you?" he fumed. "Hindi'ba nang nawawala yung talent mo..." The hapless GF was stunned? She must be extra cautious as the veteran... in troubled waters and roads on charted territory.


TINTIN Bersola

• A concert producer lamented, "Never will I get this performer for a show abroad. Mahirap siya kasi... at bawal dumaan-a book... ang mga kasama. Ang dami pa niyang hinihingi... and the worst part is, wala pa siyang benta sa ticket sales."

It's so disappointing when big names come with even bigger egos. Fame and fortune can have harmful side effects when not handled properly.

* * *

Tin-Tin Bersola is savoring the joys of second-time motherhood, though she admits that she has to deal with "sibling rivalry."

"Anya would make kwentong and tell Julian and I that gusto na ding ng baby brother niya ang attention namin," she says. "That's normal because for five years siya lang ang nasa sa buhay namin. We hug her tight and I assure her by telling her that she will always be my No. 1 because she's the first baby I carried in my womb. She wants to carry her brother but we tell her to wait a while because he's still too delicate."

* * *

Phil Younghusband's controversial ex-manager is often seen these days with Brazilian hunk Daniel Matsunaga. Rumor has it that Daniel is her new favorite and was handpicked by the female manager to replace Phil in a major international project and will also be the new celebrity endorser of several brands previously modeled by Phil.

Apparently, she is also supporting an all-Brazilian football team led by Daniel and is actually attending the matches. Hell hath no fury like a manager scorned?

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Opening This Week



Pisa

Alice in Wonderland

The Road

Up in the Air

Crazy Heart

Cop Out

The Fourth Kind